

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJ: US- GOJ TALKS ON KOREA, MAY 8 AND 9

1. RANARD BRIEFED ROK POLITICAL COUNSELOR LEE SANG OCK
MAY 15 ON TALKS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. GENERAL. NORTH KOREA WAS ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT
THE USSR- PRC DISPUTE TO ITS OWN ADVANTAGE BUT IT PROBABLY
COULD NOT DEPEND ON UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FROM EITHER ALLY
IN EVENT OF DIFFICULTY WITH ROK. NORTH' S GOAL OF DOMI-
NATING PENINSULA REMAINED UNCHANGED BUT IT HAD SET ASIDE
THE USE OF FORCE FOR THE TIME BEING. BOTH PRC AND NORTH
PROBABLY CONSIDERED ROK POLITICALLY VULNERABLE WITHOUT
US AND UN PRESENCE. CHOSEN SOREN ORGANIZATION IN JAPAN
WAS IN MANY WAYS INDEPENDENT OF DIRECT NORTH KOREAN CON-
TROL.

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B. NORTH- SOUTH TALKS. NORTH THOUGHT TALKS OFFERED A MEANS FOR EXERTING PRESSURE FOR REMOVAL OF US TROOPS. WHEN THIS FAILED TO PRODUCE RESULTS IT HAD TURNED TO A HARD LINE AND FOCUSED ATTENTION ON IMPROVING ITS INTERNATIONAL POSITION AND PROBABLY HOPED TO GAIN AN ADVANTAGE IN THIS YEAR' S CONSIDERATION OF THE KOREAN QUESTION. NORTH KOREA

WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN THE TALKS BECAUSE IT WAS FEELING THE PRESSURE OF HIGH DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AND THOUGHT THE TALKS MIGHT EVENTUALLY LEAD TO PROGRESS WHICH COULD REDUCE THE LEVEL OF THESE EXPENDITURES. THE SOUTH WANTED TO REDUCE THE POSSIBILITIES OF CONFLICT IN THE PENINSULA. ITS STEP BY STEP APPROACH TO THE TALKS WAS SENSIBLE AND BOTH US AND GOJ AGREED IT SHOULD BE SUPPORTED. THE NORTH' S MOTIVES WERE UNCLEAR IN THE SENSE THAT IT TALKED ABOUT UNIFICATION BUT MANY OF ITS SPECIFIC MOVES SEEMED TO SUGGEST THAT IT WAS OPERATING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE SEPARATION OF KOREA WOULD CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.

C. UN QUESTION. THERE WERE NO CONCLUSIONS REACHED BUT BOTH SIDES AGREED THE OUTCOME AT WHA WOULD BE IMPORTANT IN DETERMINING THE OPTIONS OPEN TO US AT THE UN. THE CHANGED SITUATION AT THE UN - ADMISSION OF 2 GERMANY' S SETTLEMENT IN VIETNAM, CHANGE IN VIEW OF AUSTRALIA AND NORDIC COUNTRIES SEATING OF PRC AND LACK OF VISIBLE PROGRESS IN NORTH- SOUTH TALKS - WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN TRADITIONAL APPROACH. IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO KEEP NORTH KOREA FROM PARTICIPATING IN ANY DEBATE ALTHOUGH THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES COULD BE A DIFFERENT MATTER. IN ANY EVENT IT WAS AGREED THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ROKG WERE NECESSARY IN FORMULATING A POSITION ON THE UN ISSUE.

D. US AND JAPANESE POLICY. WE WERE IN ACCORD IN DESIRING TO SUPPORT AND PROVIDE ASSURANCE FOR ROKG. US INTENDED TO DO ITS BEST TOWARD COMPLETING MOD PLAN; THERE WERE NO PRESENT PLANS FOR ANY WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS. ANY CHANGES IN US POLICY TOWARD NORTH KOREA WOULD BE IN THE LONG TERM AND VERY CAUTIOUS. WE HAD IMPRESSION JAPAN DID NOT PLAN TO RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA BUT PLANNED TO GO

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AHEAD WITH A POLICY OF ACCUMULATING OF EXCHANGES IN NON-POLITICAL FIELDS. JAPAN DESIRED STABILITY ON THE PENINSULA AND WHILE IT COULD NOT CONTRIBUTE DIRECT MILITARY SUPPORT IT DID PROVIDE BASES FOR THE US AND CONTRIBUTED LOANS AND ENCOURAGED INVESTMENT. THE US THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT THAT THIRD COUNTRIES NOT GET OUT AHEAD OF THE ROK IN DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA.

E. MILITARY BALANCE. THE ROKG HAD A GROUND ADVAN-
TAGE WHILE THE NORTH WAS NUMERICALLY SUPERIOR IN THE AIR.
BOTH SIDES WERE MODERNIZING AIRCRAFT INVENTORIES. US
GROUND
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